

Every year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) revisits crime victims' historic struggle for justice. To the founders of the victims' rights movement, justice meant that all victims—regardless of geography, demographics, or financial status—would have the rights and services they need in the aftermath of a crime. This year's theme—"Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim"—recommits our nation to realizing this ideal.

Through your NCVRW outreach, you can educate your communities about this history and inspire them to help advance victims' rights. The "Maximizing Communication and Awareness" section includes tools and ideas to plan activities, involve your community, and deepen the public's understanding of the realities of crime victimization and the importance of supporting crime victims' rights and services. These resources can help you plan public events, write presentations and proclamations, and encourage every American to stand behind victims of crime during National Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year.

COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR

You can find great ideas for planning your NCVRW events by checking out other crime-related events that take place throughout the nation every year. For example, Crime Stoppers' Month, the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, National Stalking Awareness Month, National Police Week, or America's Safe Schools Week offer unique opportunities to focus on specific issues that are important to the victim services community. The Commemorative Calendar in this section lists many of these events, the dates they will be held, and the contact information for primary sponsors. By visiting the Web sites and talking with the contact people for these campaigns, you can gather ideas for your own events.

OVC Events Calendar: The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, publishes its National Calendar of Victim Assistance-Related Events (<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>).

This continually updated calendar of events held throughout the country offers extensive listings that will help you locate victim-related events in your area and learn about the range of events nationwide throughout the year. **By visiting the calendar, you can also add listings and links for your own NCVRW meetings, ceremonies, forums, and your organization's events throughout the year.**

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

Powerful quotations may help inspire your audience to remember your messages long after National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The famous quotes in this section bring the meaning of the NCVRW theme—"Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim"—to life. To amplify the theme, for example, you might quote Jonathan Swift's statement that "vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others." National Crime Victims' Rights Week celebrates a vision—still "invisible" to many—of a comprehensive and just response to victims of crime.

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

Proclamations bring significance and prestige to civic events. The elected leaders or government officials you ask to speak at your ceremonies will appreciate having a sample to guide them in writing their own NCVRW proclamation, and you can increase your chances that they will accept your invitation if you can provide one. The sample proclamation included in this section offers governors, mayors, and other officials a model for describing the significance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week in standard proclamation format. If you would like your local officials to issue a proclamation, contact them *at least one month* before National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

NEW! PRESENTATION TIPS

The many ceremonies, assemblies, seminars, and forums that take place during National Crime Victims' Rights Week across the country may offer an opportunity to make a

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presentation to educate your community about some aspect of crime victimization. The presentation tips included in this section will help you identify your presentation goals, your audience, and some approaches to preparing your talk. The section also includes a sample PowerPoint template featuring the 2012 NCVRW theme and graphic design that you can tailor to your own needs. You will probably want to “localize” your presentation by focusing on crimes that affect your community or special services that are available to crime victims. Talk with your colleagues and research your local television and newspaper Web sites for local crime trends. Decide which of these stories would inspire your audience to get involved in helping victims, and use these insights to help prepare your presentation.

EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Through the power of partnerships, your NCVRW campaign can reach a much wider audience than your organization could achieve by itself. Many community organizations—businesses, civic organizations, public service agencies, faith communities, and individual professionals—share a commitment to reducing crime and protecting victims. By donating staff time, equipment, office space, and listserv and social media contacts, such agencies can engage their staffs and stakeholders in your community’s NCVRW observance. You can start by contacting school systems, law enforcement agencies, grocery stores and dry cleaners, major corporations with community offices, and other civic-minded organizations. Ask them to help “reach every victim” by reaching every possible member of your community for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

National Crime Victims’ Rights Week unleashes a nationwide outpouring of commitment and energy. Many communities hold annual events, such as memorial ceremonies, candlelight vigils, and 5K walk/run races. Schools hold essay and poster contests, universities host displays of art by and about victims, and civic organizations create quilts and silhouette displays to commemorate those lost to crime. Memorial walls, walkways, and gardens are opened to visi-

tors. Every year, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators competitively select agencies, nonprofit programs, community-based victim service organizations, faith-based organizations, and community coalitions to receive Community Awareness Grants to conduct NCVRW events. This section includes some of the event ideas from the 2011 Community Awareness Project grantees and from other communities throughout the nation. ♦

Tips for Using the Theme DVD

The Resource Guide theme DVD gives you a powerful and moving tool to feature during NCVRW events. Take a minute to review the DVD and think about how you can use the five-minute video in your special event and media outreach activities.

Ideas for Using the Theme DVD

- Use the DVD to pitch your NCVRW events to local media.
- Begin your NCVRW opening ceremony by showing the DVD.
- Begin your NCVRW news conference with the theme DVD.
- Hold a special screening of the video for community leaders.
- Ask your partners to show the video to their staff and board members.
- Share the video with faith-based organizations to use in their social justice outreach.

Tips for Holding Your Own Screening

- Choose a quiet location where your audience will be comfortable watching the video.
- Use a good DVD player, speakers, and a large monitor or screen to show the video. You can rent this equipment from an audiovisual company if you do not own your own, or you can choose a location with an in-house system (hotels, libraries, conference centers).

New! Using the Theme DVD for Maximum Impact

This section also features a case study on how one victim service provider used the theme DVD during an NCVRW ceremony to honor victims, console families, and highlight the significance of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. The case study on page 18 offers one of many resourceful approaches to using this invaluable tool.

Throughout the year, you will have many opportunities to promote crime victims' rights, especially during events that focus on specific crimes or honor professionals who serve victims. The month-by-month calendar below lists occasions you may want to use to educate your community about the impact of crime and victims' ongoing needs. To keep up with events throughout the nation, you can also regularly check the National Calendar of Victim Assistance-Related Events of the Office for Victims of Crime, U. S. Department of Justice (<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovccalendar>).

JANUARY

NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

MENTOR

703-224-2200

www.mentoring.org

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

National Center for Victims of Crime

Stalking Resource Center

202-467-8700

www.stalkingawarenessmonth.org

FEBRUARY

NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Break the Cycle

202-824-0707

www.teendvmonth.org

U.S. Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women

202-307-6026, TTY 202-307-2277

www.ovw.usdoj.gov

MARCH

NATIONAL YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION WEEK

MARCH 19-23, 2012

National Association of Students Against Violence
Everywhere (SAVE) and The Guidance Group

800-99-YOUTH

www.violencepreventionweek.org

APRIL

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Prevent Child Abuse America

312-663-3520

www.preventchildabuse.org

www.childwelfare.gov

NATIONAL SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

National Sexual Violence Resource Center

877-739-3895, 717-909-0710, TTY 717-909-0715

www.nsvrc.org

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAYS

APRIL 20-22, 2012

Youth Service America

202-296-2992

www.ysa.org

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

APRIL 22-28, 2012

U.S. Department of Justice

Office for Victims of Crime

800-851-3420, TTY 877-712-9279

www.ovc.gov/ncvrw

MAY

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Administration on Aging

202-619-0724

www.aoa.gov

2012 COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR

NATIONAL LAW DAY

MAY 1, 2012

American Bar Association

800-285-2221

www.americanbar.org

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' AND EMPLOYEES' WEEK

MAY 6-12, 2012

American Correctional Association

800-222-5646

www.aca.org

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MAY 13-19, 2012

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.

573-346-4911

www.policeweek.org

www.nationalcops.org

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS' MEMORIAL DAY

MAY 15, 2012

Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc.

573-346-4911

www.nationalcops.org

NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY

MAY 25, 2012

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

800-THE-LOST

www.missingkids.com

JULY

NATIONAL PROBATION, PAROLE, AND COMMUNITY SUPERVISION WEEK

JULY 16-20, 2012

American Probation and Parole Association

859-244-8203

www.appa-net.org

AUGUST

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

AUGUST 7, 2012

National Association of Town Watch

800-NITE-OUT

www.nationaltownwatch.org

SEPTEMBER

NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

Security On Campus, Inc.

484-580-8754

www.securityoncampus.org

CRIME STOPPERS MONTH

Crime Stoppers International

800-850-7574

www.c-s-i.org

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

SEPTEMBER 9-15, 2012

American Association of Suicidology

202-237-2280

www.suicidology.org

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR MURDER VICTIMS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

National Organization of Parents Of

Murdered Children, Inc.

888-818-POMC

www.pomc.org

OCTOBER

NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION MONTH

National Crime Prevention Council

202-466-6272

www.ncpc.org

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
303-839-1852, TTY 303-839-8459
www.ncadv.org

NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

PACER Center, National Coalition for
Parent Involvement in Education, National
Education Association, and National PTA
888-248-0822, 952-838-9000, TTY 952-838-0190
www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org

AMERICA'S SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK OCTOBER 21-27, 2012

National School Safety Center
805-373-9977
www.schoolsafety.us

NOVEMBER

TIE ONE ON FOR SAFETY THANKSGIVING THROUGH NEW YEAR'S DAY

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
877-ASK-MADD
www.madd.org

DECEMBER

NATIONAL DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
877-ASK-MADD
www.madd.org ◆



NOTABLE QUOTABLES

“Extending the Vision: Reaching Every Victim” recalls the core ideal of the victims’ rights movement—justice for every victim of crime. It asserts that all crime victims must receive the nation’s support during their time of need. Realizing this vision means understanding our movement’s history and how to chart the course that lies ahead. Consider using one or more of the following quotations in your presentations, speeches, introductions, and news releases to help inspire your audiences to renew and extend this vision in your community.

“Give to us clear vision that we may know where to stand and what to stand for—because unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything.”

—PETER MARSHALL (1902 – 1949)

“The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.”

—HELEN KELLER (1880 – 1968)

“Vision is the art of seeing the invisible.”

—JONATHAN SWIFT (1667 – 1745)

“Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”

—HARRIET TUBMAN (1822 – 1913)

“Dreams are extremely important. You can’t do it unless you can imagine it.”

—GEORGE LUCAS (1944 –)

“We never know how far-reaching something we may think, say, or do today will affect the lives of millions tomorrow.”

—B.J. PALMER (1882 – 1961)

“You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face.

You must do the thing which you think you cannot do.”

—ELEANOR ROOSEVELT (1901 – 1962)

“Determine that the thing can and shall be done and then we shall find the way.”

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1809 – 1865)

“The vision that you glorify in your mind, the ideal that you enthrone in your heart, this you will build your life by, and this you will become.”

—JAMES LANE ALLEN (1849 – 1925)

“The human voice can never reach the distance that is covered by the still small voice of conscience.”

—MOHANDAS GANDHI (1869 – 1948)

“To reach a port we must sail, sometimes with the wind, and sometimes against it.

But we must not drift or lie at anchor.”

—OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES (1809 – 1894)

“One man scorned and covered with scars still strove with his last ounce of courage to reach the unreachable stars; and the world will be better for this.”

—MIGUEL DE CERVANTES (1547 – 1616)

“Every great work, every big accomplishment, has been brought into manifestation through holding to the vision, and often just before the big achievement, comes apparent failure and discouragement.”

—FLORENCE SCOVEL SHINN (1940 –)

“You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.”

—WOODROW WILSON (1856 – 1924)

“Every age needs men who will redeem the time by living with a vision of the things that are to be.”

—ADLAI E. STEVENSON (1900 – 1965)

“The greatest achievement was at first and for a time a dream. The oak sleeps in the acorn, the bird waits in the egg, and in the highest vision of the soul a waking angel stirs. Dreams are the seedlings of realities.”

—JAMES ALLEN (1864 – 1912)

“We have a positive vision of the future founded on the belief that the gap between the promise and reality of America can one day be finally closed. We believe that.”

—BARBARA JORDAN (1936 – 1996)

“Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.”

—JOEL A. BARKER (1778 – 1838)

“When I dare to be powerful—to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.”

—AUDRE LORDE (1934 – 1992)

“Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so you shall become. Your vision is the promise of what you shall one day be; your ideal is the prophecy of what you shall at last unveil.”

—JAMES LANE ALLEN (1849 – 1925)

“The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.”

—WINSTON CHURCHILL (1874 – 1965)

“A vision is not just a picture of what could be; it is an appeal to our better selves, a call to become something more.”

—ROSABETH MOSS KANTER (1943 –)

“Few are those who can see with their own eyes and hear with their own hearts.”

—ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879 – 1955)

“To accomplish great things, we must first dream, then visualize, then plan...believe...act!”

—ALFRED A. MONTAPERT (1906 – 1997)

“There is more to us than we know. If we can be made to see it, perhaps for the rest of our lives we will be unwilling to settle for less.”

—KURT HAHN (1886 – 1974)



SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK, APRIL 22–28, 2012

- Whereas,** 18.7 million Americans are directly harmed by crime each year, and each crime affects many more family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers;¹
- Whereas,** the physical, emotional, and financial impact of crime falls on people of all ages and abilities, and of all economic, racial, and social backgrounds;
- Whereas,** in addition to these challenges, crime victims face a criminal justice system that, at times, ignores their rights and treats them with disrespect;
- Whereas,** in 1982, the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime envisioned a national commitment to a more equitable and supportive response to victims;
- Whereas,** the nation heeded this call to action and promoted victims' rights initiatives, effective and compassionate victim services, and just compensation and financial support;
- Whereas,** today, thousands of victim assistance programs provide help and support to child victims of violence and sexual abuse; stalking victims; survivors of homicide victims; victims of drunk-driving crashes; and victims of domestic, dating, and sexual violence and other crimes;
- Whereas,** now is the time to "Extend the Vision" through a comprehensive strategy for reaching and serving every victim of crime, especially traditionally underserved victims such as those with disabilities and victims from diverse cultures;
- Whereas,** the United States Department of Justice has launched the *Vision 21* initiative to renew our nation's commitment to serving all victims of crime in the 21st Century;
- Whereas,** National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 22–28, 2012, provides an opportunity to extend that vision to every victim of crime in the United States—to help ensure their access to the help they deserve and the rights they are promised;
- Whereas,** (Your Organization) is joining forces with victim service programs, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens throughout (Your City/County/Parish/State/Tribe) and America to raise awareness of victims' rights and observe National Crime Victims' Rights Week:

Now therefore, I, _____, as (*Governor/ County Executive/Mayor/Other Title*)
of _____ do hereby proclaim the week of April 22–28, 2012, as

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

and reaffirm this (*City/County/Parish/State/Tribe's*) commitment to respect and enforce victims' rights and address their needs during *Crime Victims' Rights Week* and throughout the year; and

Express our appreciation for those victims and crime survivors who have turned personal tragedy into a motivating force to improve our response to victims of crime and build a more just community.

_____ (signature) _____ (date)

¹ Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, *Criminal Victimization 2010*, (Washington, DC: BJS, 2011), <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2224> (accessed November 4, 2011).

Turn on the news, and you will see stories about the latest bank robbery, mugging, or home invasion. Yet how often do you hear about the victims—how they were treated, whether they were helped, and how they overcame the impact of crime? Every year, speakers at NCVRW ceremonies, forums, and assemblies ask their audiences to consider these questions. How would they feel if they became a victim and how well would their communities respond? You can use your NCVRW presentations—at ceremonies, assemblies, or community forums—to show how crime affects your audience and how they can help advance crime victims' rights.

PLANNING YOUR PRESENTATION

Audience

Before you start planning your presentation, think about your audience. Who are they—middle school students, healthcare professionals, parent-teacher association members, policymakers, or criminal justice system professionals? What do they know about crime and victims' rights? Do they have a viewpoint on your organization and your mission? What will they gain from listening to you (“what’s in it for me?”)? Considering these questions will help you select content, perspective, and the details you will use to convey your messages.

Theme

Decide on your key message. What do you want your audience to remember three days after your presentation? What do you hope they will do—advocate for better enforcement of victims' rights laws, volunteer at a rape crisis center, donate to a victim service agency, or help organize a coordinated community response to domestic violence? Your theme, which will underscore the importance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, will shape your research, your approach to the audience, and the information you present.

Organization

Next, plan the overall structure of the presentation. How will you begin and conclude your talk? What ideas will you

use to develop your key message, and how will you arrange these ideas to present a storyline your audience will remember?

1. **Opening:** Experts recommend that you begin by quickly engaging the audience by setting the scene. Tell a story, ask a question, or show a video that relates to the theme of your presentation. Then tell your audience your key message (e.g., our city needs a coordinated community response to domestic violence).
2. **Structure:** Build your presentation around three supporting ideas, placed in a logical pattern that leads to a clear conclusion. Typical idea development structures might include:²
 - ♦ Problem > Solution > Benefits
 - ♦ Past > Present > Future
 - ♦ Situation > Analysis > Recommendation
 - ♦ Problem > Options > Recommendation
 - ♦ Vision > Goals > Action
 - ♦ Proposals > Cons > Pros

Once you have decided on a development structure, jot down your supporting ideas and evidence, illustrations, or anecdotes to back them up. For example, if you are arguing for a coordinated community response to domestic violence and you choose a “Problem, Solution, Benefits” development structure, your talk might be organized as follows:

- a. *Problem:* Domestic violence victims must deal separately with law enforcement officers, medical professionals, magistrates, court-based victim advocates, domestic violence shelters, and other professionals at a dangerous and stressful time. Then you might (1) describe the current domestic violence response structure in your community, (2) give an example of how this response shortchanges a victim, and (3) quote a victim service provider who understands the big picture for domestic violence victims.

2 Olivia Mitchell, “How to Plan an Audience-Friendly Presentation: Your Questions Answered,” <http://www.speakingaboutpresenting.com/content/webinar-questions-answered> (accessed October 4, 2011).

- b. *Solution:* Coordinated community response teams mobilize teams of government, nonprofit, and other professionals who work with victims; teams meet regularly to address local cases and help victims with all crime-related problems. These teams may help victims when they seek medical care, file for protection orders, go to court, seek emergency shelter, or file for separation or divorce. Some communities assemble these professionals in one facility, such as a family justice center. In this section, you might (1) describe how such teams work, (2) show how such teams helped a particular victim in another community, and (3) identify potential components in your community and propose how a local team might be organized.
- c. *Benefits:* Coordinated community response teams can (1) help protect victims and save lives, (2) ease case loads for all professionals involved, and (3) save resources by coordinating and synthesizing the work of agencies that would otherwise be working separately. You can make a strong case by citing examples of these three sets of benefits.
3. **Conclusion:** End your presentation by restating your theme. For example, you might say that your city needs a coordinated community response to domestic violence because (1) the current response is not working, (2) coordinated community response teams can solve many current problems, and (3) these teams benefit victims and victim-serving professionals, and effectively use limited community resources.

USING POWERPOINT

Many presenters use PowerPoint slides as a “roadmap” to focus their presentations and add visual appeal. PowerPoint engages audience members who learn visually and helps speakers organize their thoughts. Experts suggest the following guidelines for preparing effective slides:

- ♦ Rule of 6: No more than 6 bullets per slide, 6 to 8 words per bullet.
- ♦ Use sans-serif fonts (e.g., Arial, Verdana) for readability.
- ♦ Use at least 24-point type.

- ♦ Use dark text on light backgrounds.
- ♦ Use italics sparingly (harder to read).
- ♦ Avoid all-uppercase letters (except for titles).
- ♦ Use the same background design on every slide.
- ♦ Use graphics and photos to create visual appeal and theme support.
- ♦ Use simple designs, solid colors, and one color grouping on charts.
- ♦ Limit animation and sound effects.
- ♦ Use parallel structure in bullet lists (e.g., each bullet item in this list begins with an active verb).
- ♦ Check the spelling and grammar.
- ♦ Preview every slide before the presentation.

Practice your presentation until you feel well prepared.

As you rehearse, determine how long it takes you to go through all the slides, and adjust your presentation to meet the time requirements for the talk. Never read the slides, but use the bulleted items and charts on the screen as guideposts for your talk.

COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY

Speak in a positive, enthusiastic manner, varying your rate of speech and the pitch of your voice. Smile, make eye contact, use physical gestures sparingly, and vary your facial expressions. Concentrate on the message and **practice**. The more presentations you do, the more easily you can integrate these skills.

CHECK THE ROOM

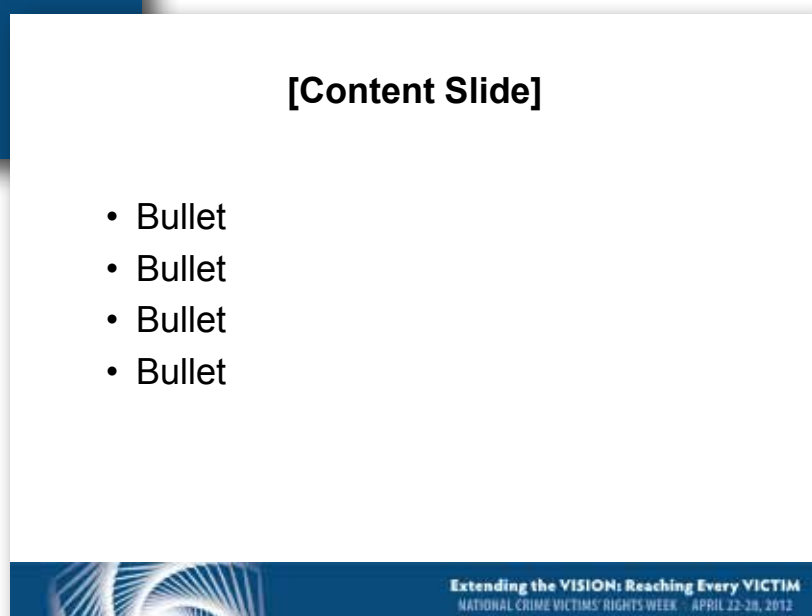
Make a list of the items to check, and visit the room before you make your presentation. Check the size, the layout, any obstacles, the location of the doors, and the amount of seating. Check for potential noise and temperature problems, and then ask the facility staff to fix any problems you find. Check your computer, projector, screen, and microphone, and ask someone to tell you if your voice is audible. Load your presentation onto the computer, and run through the entire presentation to make sure the computer and projector are working properly. Then arrive at least one hour before the presentation to check the equipment again and make sure you are comfortable before you speak.

SAMPLE POWERPOINT TEMPLATE

Accompanying this section is a sample PowerPoint template featuring the 2012 NCVRW theme and graphic design.

You can use the template to prepare and customize your own NCVRW PowerPoint presentations. Images of the title and secondary master slides appear on this page, and you will find the actual PowerPoint file in the Resource Guide Artwork folder on the NCVRW CD-ROM. ♦

OPEN THE POWERPOINT TEMPLATE



EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

The vision of victims, advocates, legislators, judges, religious leaders, and other reformers launched the victims' rights movement and the progress we celebrate every National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). By working together, these leaders advanced the effort to reach every victim in need. Such partnerships also inspired the *2012 NCVRW Resource Guide*, which is a joint effort by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office for Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and the National Center for Victims of Crime, supported by the Postal Inspection Service of the United States Postal Service and a host of partner organizations listed in "Section 7: Additional Resources" of this Resource Guide. Each organization mobilizes its experience, skills, resources, and stakeholders to help you plan a powerful NCVRW strategy.

Such collaboration can help you bring the NCVRW vision to victims in your community. By partnering with public safety departments, schools, youth organizations, faith communities, health agencies, and civic organizations, you can extend the impact of your outreach. Start by identifying your usual partners, list several more potential allies, and then contact them right away. The following list includes the kinds of organizations that can help you plan 2012 National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Partnership Opportunities

Allied Professionals

- Law Enforcement Professionals, Prosecutors, and Corrections and Probation Officers
- Healthcare Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals

Businesses and Corporations

- Business or Professional Associations
- Visitors' and Convention Bureaus

Civic Organizations

Community Development Agencies

Faith Communities

Government Agencies

- Agencies Serving Seniors and Persons with Disabilities
- Community Liaison Offices
- Libraries
- Public Officials
- Schools

Military Installations

Tribal Authorities

Youth-serving Organizations

ALLIED PROFESSIONALS

You can partner with criminal justice, health care, and social services professionals whose daily work brings them into contact with crime victims. They know the impact of crime on victims and have learned that collaborations help both partner agencies and the people they serve. Strong law enforcement/victim services partnerships, for example, give victims a needed lifeline while freeing police officers to concentrate on solving crimes. Building your relationships with professionals in allied fields will sharpen your NCVRW strategy and improve your work on behalf of crime victims.

Law Enforcement Professionals, Prosecutors, and Corrections and Probation Officers

Criminal justice professionals are experts on the impact of crime. They know that victims need information about their rights, available services, and tools to recover from crime. Some law enforcement agencies designate officers to work specifically with victims, and some have non-officer victim advocates. Many departments publish booklets and resource cards to give to victims immediately after crimes. Criminal justice agencies can help publicize your NCVRW events, and you can work with them to develop or update their resource information for victims. You can invite police officers, school resource officers, corrections officials, or prosecutors to speak at your events, and you can honor officers whose work has especially helped local victims. You can also

find out how collaborations among criminal justice agencies have helped victims, and honor the leaders who launched those partnerships.

Healthcare Professionals

Medical professionals play a key role in preventing and responding to crime. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) care for sexual assault victims and sensitively collect evidence. Primary care physicians frequently check patients for signs of domestic violence. The care victims receive and the professionalism of providers can make a great difference in victims' capacity to recover from crime. Medical practices, medical and dental societies, nurses' associations, and physical and occupational therapists can help you spread the word about National Crime Victims' Rights Week to their colleagues and patients. Invite a SANE or public health professional to speak at your events and to share what they are learning about violence prevention or helping victims stay safe. Ask your local clinics and hospitals to post NCVRW posters and banners, to host information fairs and professional forums, and to engage all their stakeholders in the campaign to reach every crime victim in need.

Mental Health Professionals

Crime often has a negative impact on the mental health of victims, who may suffer from depression, posttraumatic stress disorder, alcoholism, and a range of other problems. Mental health professionals understand the psychological impact of crime and want to ensure that every victim gets needed services. Community mental health associations can share information about crime victim compensation, safety planning, and other services with colleagues, clients, and the public. Invite these professionals to join your NCVRW team and to support your outreach through their professional networks.

BUSINESSES AND CORPORATIONS

"Controlling crime is the business of every American institution [and]...the business of every American,"³ declared the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice more than 40 years ago. Just as we have learned that crime hurts everyone—institutions as well as individuals—we know that helping victims is everyone's responsibility. Businesses, in particular, have a strong interest in keeping their communities safe, protecting their customers and property from crime, and supporting crime victims. You might ask your area Chamber of Commerce if any local businesses have formed partnerships with law enforcement or mobilized their workforces to help crime victims or mentor at-risk youth. You can invite such businesses to participate in your NCVRW planning and help you raise the profile of your events. Businesses can share their advertising and marketing staffs and resources, their office space, and their own community partners to join in organizing National Crime Victims' Rights Week in your area. Ask for their advice, feature their leaders as speakers, and thank them for their help during your events and in your NCVRW publicity.

Business or Professional Associations

Businesses often belong to umbrella organizations that promote their work and their interests in the community. You can form partnerships with your local Chamber of Commerce; Better Business Bureau; associations for department or grocery stores, news media, telecommunications or insurance companies; professional associations for attorneys, human resource specialists, or engineers; or unions representing workers in a wide range of fields. Contact officials from these organizations, suggest setting up an NCVRW partnership, and invite them to sponsor and help plan your NCVRW observance. Help these organizations reach out to crime victims and set up long-term partnerships to share resources both during and after National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

3 The President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice, *The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society*, (Washington, DC: GPO, 1967), xi.

EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Visitors' and Convention Bureaus

Because high-tourism areas have a strong interest in public safety, visitors' and convention bureaus and hotel associations make great NCVRW partners. Contact your local tourism-related agencies, give them information about local crime victim resources, and invite them to help you plan and implement National Crime Victims' Rights Week. You can request advice and resources from their marketing departments, and ask them to distribute public education materials and other information—such as crime prevention tips, lists of local victim assistance agencies, and Web site addresses of national crime victim organizations, such as the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice (www.ovc.gov), and the National Center for Victims of Crime (www.ncvc.org). You can also feature the contributions of these and other victim service organizations in your outreach materials and at your events.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Every community benefits from civic organizations and clubs. Rotary, Kiwanis, and Lions Clubs, parent-teacher organizations, professional societies, schools and university alumni, neighborhood and crime watch associations, retirees' groups, ethnic and cultural organizations, and even photography and garden clubs have special skills and constituencies that can make great contributions to National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Work with these groups to plan and host events, boost NCVRW publicity, distribute resource materials, and involve their members as volunteers. Make a special effort to involve representatives of underserved communities (e.g., victims with disabilities, seniors, ethnic communities) that may need information about crime victims' rights and services. Ask these groups to share volunteers, translators (if appropriate), and guidance to ensure that your NCVRW events include the entire community.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

The mission of community development agencies is to improve the quality of life and help plan community land use, improve neighborhoods and the environment, and help stakeholders work together toward common goals. Planners have a strong interest in reducing crime, which damages community development, and they know the community leaders who can best mobilize their local activists. Ask your community development agency to suggest potential partners for your National Crime Victims' Rights Week planning, and then continue to work with these leaders throughout the year.

FAITH COMMUNITIES

Faith communities have strong commitments to social justice, protecting their communities, and helping those who have been harmed. You can seek out clergy members and lay leaders from churches, synagogues, mosques, and religious service organizations (e.g., American Friends Service Committee, B'Nai B'rith, or the Knights of Columbus) to join your NCVRW preparations. Make a list of local faith communities, and find out how crime affects their members and what kinds of help they need. Do they know victims or leaders you can honor at your NCVRW ceremonies? Ask for their help to publicize your events and to provide speakers and volunteers.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Victim service agencies form a wide range of partnerships with government agencies to promote National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Many victim service providers work in government agencies such as police departments, prosecutors' offices, and domestic violence agencies, and can use the outreach capacities of these agencies for their NCVRW publicity. Other potential government partners include libraries, agencies for youth and seniors, commissions for women, and ethnic community liaison offices that can publicize events and contribute resources and volunteers. Agencies from different levels of government—local, state, and national—can join forces to plan National Crime Vic-

tims' Rights Week and then collaborate on other projects throughout the year.

Agencies Serving Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

Seniors and persons with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to crime. Both groups may need caregivers to help with activities of daily living and may have put their finances in the control of relatives or other guardians. Seniors and persons with disabilities are often victimized by scams and fraud, theft, and physical assaults. They can benefit greatly from knowing their rights and where to seek services if they are victimized. You can partner with agencies for persons with disabilities, senior centers, adult protective services, area agencies on aging, university elder-education programs, and consumer protection agencies in your city, county, or state. With these agencies, you can enlist volunteers to staff events and spread the word about National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

Community Liaison Offices

Many cities, counties, and states have offices that serve as liaisons to various ethnic communities. These offices work with these communities' organizations and leaders to ensure adequate access to government services for their members. These offices can share information about criminal justice procedures and reduce fear about reporting crime—a common problem among recent immigrants. National Crime Victims' Rights Week offers a perfect occasion to bring criminal justice officials into these communities and to let people know that crime victims (whether they are citizens or not) have rights and can find services when crime occurs.

Libraries

Public libraries serve as civic centers where people of all ages do research, hold meetings, and connect with their communities. You can work with library staff to display NCVRW posters, announcements, or multimedia displays on crime victims' rights or victim assistance. Libraries can also host forums and educational events and often have meeting

space where you could plan or hold local NCVRW events. Libraries can also use their links to other local government communications networks to share NCVRW information with colleagues in all government agencies.

Public Officials

Elected officials play a key role in NCVRW observances throughout the nation. They issue proclamations and news releases, speak at ceremonies, and convey the importance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week to their constituents. You can work with the policy and communications staffs of officials at all levels of government to ensure their fullest possible participation in your events. Research your officials' records on crime victims' rights, contact their offices, and thank them for all they have done for crime victims (or share information about how they can help). Invite them to participate in NCVRW events, honor them publicly, and ask them to urge all their colleagues to support victims throughout the year.

Schools

Working with schools (both staff and students) can help bring NCVRW messages to children, parents, teachers, administrators, and neighborhoods throughout the school system. You can involve students through poster, art, essay, and public speaking contests, and honor the winners at NCVRW ceremonies. Students can launch youth-centered outreach campaigns (using school media and art department resources); schools can hold assemblies, forums, sociodramas, debates, and plays on student-selected NCVRW issues to educate students and adults about the reasons for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Like other citizens, victims of crime in the military have a set of rights, which includes the right to be treated with fairness and respect, to be notified of court proceedings, to be present at proceedings related to the offense, to information about the case, and to receive available restitution. In recent years, many military agencies have stepped up their efforts

EXTEND YOUR REACH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

to ensure that these rights are enforced. You can work with military communications officers to promote National Crime Victims' Rights Week in military media and print communications and to hold events that honor outstanding military leadership in advancing victims' rights.

TRIBAL AUTHORITIES

Native American Tribes and Alaska Natives are victims of unusually high levels of crime, and authorities struggle to cover the 55 million acres of Indian Territory. A recent federal law, the Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010, has committed the U.S. Department of Justice to improve coordination with Tribal justice officials in prosecuting crimes on reservations, and provides resources for better overall cooperation between Tribal, state, and federal agencies. Such initiatives create an excellent climate to work with Tribal authorities in promoting National Crime Victims' Rights Week and honoring Native Americans and other leaders who have worked to advance Native American crime victims' rights.

YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS

Organizations that serve youth make great NCVRW partners because young people are at high risk for being victimized by crime. Youths need to know their rights, how to recognize crime, and where to get help if they are victimized. Potential partners include the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, YMCA and YWCA, Campfire USA, City Year, Junior Achievement, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, International Order of Rainbow for Girls, the Boys' and Girls' Clubs of America, the National Youth Leadership Council, DeMolay International, and faith-based youth organizations. You can also partner with youth leagues, parent-teacher organizations, and local mentoring programs to publicize and hold NCVRW events. ♦



Through special events, communities attract wide audiences, share information, and build strong support for crime victims' rights. Arts festivals, rallies, information fairs, sports events, memorial displays, and concerts can uplift people's spirits, build excitement, and inspire groups from different backgrounds to support a common goal. Every year, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), in conjunction with the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, supports such events through its Community Awareness Projects initiative. OVC selects jurisdictions throughout the United States to receive partial funding for their NCVRW activities. Selection criteria include collaboration, innovation, community impact, media involvement, and experience with victims' issues. You can use the following list of 2011 events—which includes brief summaries of Community Awareness Projects and other event ideas from communities around the country—to plan your own event. For more CAP project descriptions from prior years, visit <http://cap.navaa.org>.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week Special Events

Art Exhibits

Butterfly Releases

Candlelight Vigils

Clothesline Projects

Commemorative Displays

- Commemorative Quilts
- Empty Shoes Displays
- Memorial Displays
- Silhouette Displays

Concerts

Denim Day

Dramatic Presentations

Educational Forums

Information and Resource Fairs

Initiative Announcements

Media Outreach

Mock Trials

Rallies

Social Media

Theater Advertisements

Tree Plantings

Walk/Run Events

Youth Events

- Art, Poetry, and Essay Contests
- Poster Contests

ART EXHIBITS

Through art, victims of crime find a unique medium to express their pain, anger, and suffering—to search for peace, find hope, and begin recovery. In Kansas City, Missouri, the Johnson County District Attorney's Office hosted an exhibit of art by crime victims and advocates; a local artist presented a demonstration, and an art therapist spoke at the event. Student art from a poster contest held by the Cherokee Domestic Violence Task Force, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Families of Cherokee United in Service in Canton, Georgia, was displayed in a public location as part of an NCVRW public awareness campaign. In Yonkers, New York, Victim Assistance Services, Westchester Community Opportunity Program held its fifth annual Victim Assistance Services Survivor Art Show.

BUTTERFLY RELEASES

During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, many community organizers plan butterfly releases to symbolize the metamorphosis from victim to survivor. The San Diego district attorney and the county sheriff released 100 butterflies in honor of local crime victims. Wings of Hope donated the butterflies to serve as a "silent but strong symbol of the meaning of National Crime Victims' Rights Week." In Fort Myers, Florida, an NCVRW event at the Kate Bryson Memorial Walk included a butterfly release in memory of crime victims. Residents in Ocala, Florida, joined the Ocala Police Department to kick off the week with a mayoral proclamation as well as a day of festivities, walks, and a butterfly release.

CANDLELIGHT VIGILS

At candlelight vigils throughout the nation, communities gathered in silent, solemn unity to remember crime victims who have died and to honor those who remain. To commemorate victims of alcohol-related vehicular deaths, Mothers Against Drunk Driving sponsored a candlelight vigil in downtown Denver, Colorado. This event launched National Crime Victims' Rights Week for Colorado and called to mind the 158 people killed by drunk drivers in Colorado in 2009. In South Bend, Indiana, the Family Justice Center of St. Joseph County hosted a candlelight vigil and "Take Back the Night" event emceed by local celebrities. In Orleans County, New York, crime victims, survivors, and service providers gathered at the county courthouse candlelight vigil to honor the courage of crime victims and their families.

CLOTHESLINE PROJECTS

To build awareness of domestic violence and other crimes, many communities display T-shirts designed by victims to express their pain and draw strength from community support. Victims and advocates in Jefferson County, Colorado, designed T-shirts that were displayed during the annual Courage Walk event, held to honor the strength and courage of crime victims and those who have lost loved ones to violence. In Anderson, South Carolina, domestic violence victims designed T-shirts—color-coded by type of abuse—that were displayed at a community open house sponsored by Foothills Alliance. In Lafayette, Louisiana, Faith House worked with local sexual assault programs and the Sheriff's Office on the "Survivor Shirt Story," an exhibit of more than 100 T-shirts.

COMMEMORATIVE DISPLAYS

Throughout the nation, communities display commemorative quilts, memorial walls, personalized tiles, silhouettes, empty place and shoe exhibits, and photo montages to raise public awareness of crime and help victims heal and recover.

Commemorative Quilts

Since 1994, law enforcement professionals, victims, and service providers in Fresno, California, have been gathering patches for the community's crime victim remembrance quilt. This year, they unveiled the 16th Annual Victims' Memorial quilt with 400 pieces commemorating lives that have been cut short by crime. In Hanford, California, survivors created more than 18 decorative quilts to serve as a reminder of the number of people who had fallen victim to violent crime in Kings County. NCVRW events in Tulare County,

Using the Theme DVD for Maximum Impact

Victim Services Interagency Council of North Carolina

"Every victim has a lesson to teach us as victim service providers. Those voices, those messages, those legacies are forever a part of us."

—William Petty, 2011 Theme DVD

The Victim Services Interagency Council of North Carolina (IAC), a Community Awareness Project grantee, showcased the 2011 theme DVD in its moving Crime Victims' Rights Week Ceremony at the Wake County Commons Building on April 12, 2011, in Raleigh, North Carolina. The event included a keynote speech by Sharon D'Eusanio—the former deputy director for the Division of Victim Services and Criminal Justice Programs for the Office of the Florida Attorney General—who was blinded as a result of a violent crime in 1980. The ceremony also featured the 2011 theme DVD, modified to include photos of local homicide victims and messages of love, remembrance, and hope from their friends and families. The enhanced theme DVD, which ran 20 minutes, inspired the audience, consoled the victims' loved ones, and underscored the importance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week. The DVD was the "highlight of the ceremony," said Elizabeth Wexler, director of the North Carolina Victim Assistance Network, which helped coordinate the event.

IAC recruited a video editing company to integrate the photos and messages, and add music into the DVD. The result was a powerfully touching video that flowed smoothly and was consistent with the original theme DVD.

California, featured several memorial quilts, reminding the victims' families that they are neither forgotten nor alone.

Empty Shoes Displays

Empty shoes displays are poignant, visual reminders of marginalized, silenced victims. At its 2011 NCVRW Walk in Berks County, Pennsylvania, Years of Tears displayed the shoes of local homicide victims. At a mall in Albert Lea, Minnesota, the Freeborn County Crime Victim's Crisis Center presented a display of shoes labeled with the type of victimization each pair represented. In honor of National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Yavapai County, Arizona, district attorney's office set up a display of shoes representing victims of crime.

Memorial Displays

In Atlanta, Georgia, the Crime Victims Advocacy Council sponsored its 21st Annual Memorial Service where the memorial wall for homicide victims from 1991 to 2010 was displayed. A memorial wall in Dover, Delaware, displayed letters, poems, and artwork submitted by victims, survivors, family members, and friends. Johnson City, New York, also displayed a homicide memorial wall to commemorate local victims.

Silhouette Displays

Silhouette displays remind the community of lives lost or forever changed through victimization. In Kent, Ohio, the city town hall hosted a victim silhouette display depicting victims of seven types of victimization: child abuse, elder abuse, human trafficking, drunken driving, sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking. The Milwaukee, Wisconsin, County Courthouse lined its walls with silhouettes of victims of crime along with their full names and ages. In Norfolk, Virginia, the Commonwealth Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Program displayed ten "Silent Witness" silhouettes and promoted the event with newspaper and television announcements.

CONCERTS

Musical events can attract enthusiastic crowds and share powerful NCVRW messages. Jams for Justice in Austin, Texas, hosted its annual benefit concert, which drew many members of the media and helped raise awareness about crime victims and their rights. In Vero Beach, Florida, the Vero Sings for Victims concert, featuring local talent, raised funds to help victims of violent crimes.

DENIM DAY

Denim Day, which began after a 1999 Italian Supreme Court decision that found a rapist innocent because the victim had been wearing fitted jeans, has become an international form of protest against sexual assault. The California Victim Compensation Program hosted a Denim Day clothing drive to gather much-needed supplies for victims of sexual violence and raise awareness of sexual assault and National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Hands of Hope Resource Center in Morrison County, Minnesota, held its fifth annual Denim Day to raise awareness about sexual assault.

DRAMATIC PRESENTATIONS

In Brooklyn, New York, the Office of the Kings County District Attorney—in conjunction with Safe Horizon, the Brooklyn Community Pride Center, and the Brooklyn Borough President's Office—hosted a "Voice Out" program to recognize the strength and celebrate the voices of Brooklyn citizens who have been victims of violent crime. The event also featured a performance by students from LaGuardia Arts—the New York City School for the Performing Arts—of "They Are Here," an original composition in the words of survivors of violent crime taken from their victim impact statements in court.

EDUCATIONAL FORUMS

In Harford County, Maryland, the State Attorney General hosted an open panel forum to discuss community crime and victimization and to offer survivors a platform for closure and healing. The panel included the State's Attorney for Harford County; representatives from the Maryland

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Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, the Maryland Division of Parole and Probation, and the Maryland State Police; and a victim of crime. Crime Victim Care of Allen County, Indiana, held a forum discussion on human trafficking—a crime that victimizes more than 200,000 in the United States alone—and its effects on society.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCE FAIRS

The FBI Citizens' Academy Alumni Association of Illinois hosted a victim services resource fair—combined with a victim's recovery conference, a health and wellness fair, and an NCVRW Walk/Run/Roll to raise awareness of crime victims' rights and the services available to crime victims throughout the 84 counties it serves. The Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services held regional open houses at five different sites throughout the state to share the work of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Community Services with the public.

INITIATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Crime Victims' Rights Week presents a unique opportunity to focus widespread attention on improving services to victims and survivors. Political leaders and institutions use this week to present programs, legislation, and directives that will advance the field. Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine voiced public determination to fight bullying by holding a “bullying summit” and to increase his office's efforts to tackle cyber safety. New York City's Deputy Mayor for Legal Affairs Carol Robles-Roman announced the second phase of a vigorous New York City anti-human trafficking mission titled “Let's Call an End to Human Trafficking.”

MEDIA OUTREACH

This year, organizations used a wide range of media to advance their NCVRW outreach. Santa Barbara County, California, hosted a networking event for media personnel, victim advocates, and law enforcement professionals. The Washington Coalition of Crime Victim Advocates in Tumwater launched a campaign to distribute 7,500 bumper

stickers, coupled with PSAs and media releases. Heartford House in Lafayette, Indiana, promoted NCVRW through billboard and television ad campaigns. The Vanderburgh County, Indiana, prosecutor's office used radio, television, billboard, and bus bench and shelter ads to raise awareness of their efforts to reduce victimization.

MOCK TRIALS

Organizations and communities sometimes present mock trials during National Crime Victims' Rights Week to give the public firsthand experience of how trials actually work. In Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Speak Out and the Victim Resource Center launched National Crime Victims' Rights Week with a mock sexual assault trial where lawyers, law students, and the public could watch an assault trial unfold.

RALLIES

California activists and victim service providers gathered at the capitol in Sacramento to remember those lost to violence and to remind lawmakers about the need for services and fairness for victims of crime. In Jackson, Mississippi, family members and survivors came together to advocate for victims' rights legislation and victim services. Hundreds gathered in Orange County, California, for a rally, luncheon, and flower ceremony in tribute of local victims of crime. Guest speakers reminded the survivors, victims, law enforcement, and service providers at the event that they must carry the banner of justice for those without a voice.

SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2011, communities heightened their efforts to reach out through social media. The Iowa Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division supplemented its standard outreach—such as advertising in newspapers that reach the Hispanic, African American, Bosnian American, and Filipino American communities—with Facebook campaigns to reach young adults. Victims for Justice in Anchorage, Alaska, added a Facebook fan page to its outreach, which also included radio talk shows, direct mail invitations, and

e-mail invitations. The Collins Center of Harrisonburg, Virginia, presented Feats of Feet, an online digital media campaign featuring photos of victims' feet with brief summaries of their stories. Organizations posted more than 100 NCVRW videos on Facebook and YouTube, including a photo montage by the Minnesota Alliance on Crime showing images of victims, survivors, and advocates, each holding a placard with a message about victimization.

THEATER ADVERTISEMENTS

Cinema offers a powerful medium for educating people and reaching a large audience. At Boise State University in Idaho, on-campus organizations organized a conference on domestic violence and victimization. Feminist author and filmmaker Jean Kilbourne discussed cinematic depictions of women that often lead to higher rates of domestic violence. In East Haven, Connecticut, MADD placed ads on movie screens in 15 theaters and digital television ads in ten gas stations throughout the state. Napa Valley College in California was one of many universities to show *Heaven's Rain*, a film about how former Oklahoma Senator Brooks Douglas coped with the murder of his parents and the attempted murder of his sister when he was a child.

TREE PLANTINGS

Many survivors find peace and strength by planting a tree in memory of a loved one who has died as a result of crime. "Planting a tree signifies new life, rebirth, and healing in the face of a loss," said Governor Bill Haslam at the opening NCVRW ceremony in Tennessee, where communities statewide held NCVRW tree-planting ceremonies to recognize all crime victims. In Merced County, California, the mother of homicide victim Chandra Levy joined other family members of victims for a ribbon ceremony. Each family member placed a green ribbon around a tree that had been planted in honor of their loved one.

WALK/RUN EVENTS

In Jefferson County, Colorado, victim advocates working with the sheriff's office organized events to raise funds for

service providers and increase awareness about the needs of victims. Their annual Courage Walk kicked off the state's National Crime Victims' Rights Week observances. In Knoxville, Tennessee, HOPE organized a remembrance walk bringing together survivors and victims. The walk, which took place on the riverfront, gave voice to victims silenced by crime. Each year, George Mason University in Virginia mobilizes student talent to present an NCVRW awareness campaign that includes a run/walk, a candlelight vigil, and high-energy events to attract youth and educate them on crime prevention and the effects of crime.

YOUTH EVENTS

In California, Walnut Avenue Women's Center in Santa Cruz hosted an event to educate youth on recognizing and protecting themselves against cyber-bullying. In York, Pennsylvania, the YMCA hosted an educational program on alternatives to violence, presented by a youth-led performance group. Throughout Texas, the Texas Youth Commission held a range of events—such as flower plantings, balloon releases, and the annual Victim Impact Panel at Giddings State School—to honor victims and remind young offenders of the impact of their crimes.

Art, Poetry, and Essay Contests

Students in the Travis County, Texas, school district wrote and presented essays on victimization during the NCVRW ceremony and remembrance day. In Staten Island, New York, the winners of student art and writing contests received awards at the 17th annual NCVRW candlelight vigil, sponsored by the Richmond County District Attorney's Office and Safe Horizon.

Poster Contests

The Arapahoe County, Colorado, Sheriff's Department held an NCVRW poster contest for local students and displayed the winning posters in the Department's headquarters. In Queens, New York, the district attorney held a poster contest, won by fifth graders at Public School 106, with the theme "helping victims reshape the future and

IDEAS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

mend broken hearts.” Also, in Pomeroy, Ohio, fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students created posters to depict what the world would look like without crime victims. ♦

